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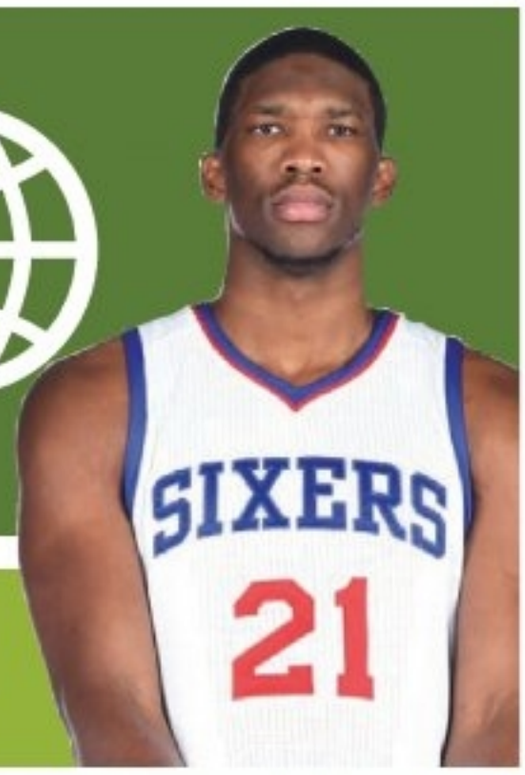

EMBIID EXTENSION POSSIBLE

How much will the Sixers center end up playing this season? 20

Philly Music Fest wants you to support your scene. 14

Phillies finally playing to potential. 18

BELLES ON WHEELS

Philly's beloved roller derby team, the Liberty Belles, who are heading to the playoffs and will be hosting this year's championships, open up about their love of the game. 6-7

CHARLES MOSTOLLER

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JENNIFER LOGUE, FEATURES EDITOR

Philly's music scene is hotter than ever, with bands like Cayetana, The Districts and many more achieving national recognition. What better way to "support your scene" than by heading out to the first-ever Philly Music Fest at World Cafe Live this weekend? Featuring all Philly performers, even the beers and eats are Philly-focused. The best part? All proceeds go to a nonprofit that supports musicians and music education here. **metrophilly.us**

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION SUED OVER BORDER WALL

1 California filed a lawsuit over the Trump administration's plan to construct a wall along the border with Mexico, adding to the obstacles facing one of the Republican president's key campaign promises. President Donald Trump has insisted Mexico would pay for building the wall, which experts said could cost about $22 billion and take more than three years to complete. With Mexico refusing to pay, Trump has said since taking office in January that the wall will initially need U.S. funding but that he will find a way to make Mexico ultimately pay for it. Democrats in the U.S. Congress, however, firmly oppose the border wall, and at least some Democratic senators would need to vote for its inclusion in a spending package. Democratic attorneys general including California's Xavier Becerra have sued the Trump administration on a range of issues.

REPUBLICANS TO VOTE ON HEALTHCARE NEXT WEEK

2 Senate Republicans announced plans to vote next week on their latest bid to scuttle Obamacare even as a popular comedian who has become part of the U.S. healthcare debate denounced the bill and former President Barack Obama on Wednesday warned of "real human suffering." President Donald Trump, who has expressed frustration at the Senate's failure thus far to pass legislation to replace Obama's signature legislative achievement, said "47 or 48" Republican senators already back the new bill, which needs 50 votes for passage in the 100-seat Senate that his party controls 52-48. "We think this has a very good chance," Trump, who made replacing Obamacare a top campaign promise last year, told reporters during an appearance with Egypt's president in New York.

HURRICANE MARIA

3 Residents of San Juan, Puerto Rico, deal with damages to their homes on Wednesday as Hurricane Maria batters the island. Maria slammed into Puerto Rico on Wednesday, cutting power on most of the U.S. territory as terrified residents hunkered down in the face of the island's worst storm in living memory. After leaving a deadly trail of destruction on a string of smaller Caribbean islands, Maria made landfall on Puerto Rico's southeast coast around daybreak, packing winds of around 150 mph.

GETTY IMAGES

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

AG JEFF SESSIONS SAYS MARIJUANA STILL ILLEGAL

4 U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions criticized the legalization of marijuana in multiple states and warned that the federal law banning use and sale of the drug "remains in effect," remarks that could stoke fears of a federal crackdown. "I've never felt that we should legalize marijuana," Sessions said in response to a question from a reporter during a press conference in San Diego announcing record-breaking narcotics seizures by the U.S. Coast Guard in fiscal 2017. "It doesn't strike me that the country would be better if it's being sold at every street corner," he said, adding that medical organizations oppose it and federal law prohibits it. Since taking over the helm of the Justice Department in February, Sessions has made drugs, violent crime and illegal immigration his three top law enforcement priorities.

FACEBOOK TO ADD MORE HUMAN REVIEW TO ADS

5 Facebook Inc. will add "more human review and oversight" to its ad-buying system, Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg said on Wednesday, responding to rising criticism that automated processes have allowed people to buy discriminatory ads. Sandberg said in a post on her Facebook page the company would have more manual review of the targeting options it gives advertisers, a change that she said would strengthen the system after a report Facebook had allowed advertisers to market to self-described "Jew haters." ProPublica, a non-profit news organization based in New York, reported last week that it was possible to buy Facebook ads targeted to people who, on their Facebook profiles, had listed anti-Semitic topics in their field of study or work.

POLL

39%

According to a new national Marist Poll, Donald Trump's job approval rating is up to 39% from 35%, among Americans, and it is President Trump's base that accounts for the improvement.

Source: Marist poll

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Grief-stricken grandma does not believe that her grandson drowned

Was 11-year-old Laquan Lattimore murdered? His grandmother, Val Lattimore, suspects something more sinister than drowning.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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Val Lattimore is a woman haunted by the death of her 11-year-old grandson in 2015. And two years later, she still cannot accept the official story that Laquan Lattimore drowned after going swimming in Darby Creek in Delaware County.

"He was murdered and put in the river," Lattimore told Metro Wednesday. "This was no accident. He couldn't swim. He would never go near water. And with socks on? He's going to jump into dirty water? No. That is unbelievable."

It's a claim she has made repeatedly for years, to police and to anyone who will listen.

The problem is, she doesn't have any proof.

But she has a grandmother's intuition, and a deeply held belief that the full story of her grandson's death has never been told.

Laquan Lattimore was reported missing on Aug. 3, 2015. Delaware County authorities and the FBI investigated the disappearance, before discovering his body in the Darby Creek. A medical examiner determined the cause of death to be drowning.

Police declined to comment on Lattimore's claims, which she has reported to them.

Sources familiar with the case told Metro that surveillance video showed Laquan heading to the creek with a group of other boys, and later showed the same group leaving, minus Laquan. Police believe as Laquan became stranded in the water and drowned, his friends panicked and fled.

As a toddler, Laquan was moved by child welfare services from his mother's care, then his father's care, before being shifted to the home of Lattimore, 53. But at age 4 he was removed again to the home of a relative in Delaware County, where he lived until his death. Lattimore last saw him in July 2013.

Her living room in her home in the West Poplar section of Philly is dominated by a picture of him, and she has a 25-pound tote bag stuffed with documents related to the case, from police files and the medical examiner's report to articles about similar deaths of children that were reinvestigated decades later.

Laquan didn't know how to swim, she says. She doesn't believe he would have left his bike nearby to go into a creek while wearing underwear and socks, which he is described as wearing in the medical report.

No bruises or signs of a struggle were found on Laquan's body, but "bloody, frothy sputum" was found in his upper respiratory tract. Such sputum can appear in connection with swimming-induced pulmonary edema, according to medical experts. But Lattimore suspects an adult may have taken Laquan's life and placed the body in the river to conceal the crime.

Bodies found in water pose difficulties for investigators, said Kimberlee Moran, a forensics professor at Rutgers, and cases do exist like Lattimore's theory of the murder.

"When police encounter a body in the water … they just get a big net and fish the body out, so any potentially important information is just gone," Moran said. "There are no physiological signs that are 100 percent consistent across drownings. … There are circumstances where a child is killed and it's very convenient to just place the body in water."

Val Lattimore holds up a copy of the newspaper article reporting the death of her grandson, Laquan. She doesn't believe official accounts that he drowned.
SAM NEWHOUSE

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Members of the Liberty Belles roller derby team practice at their space in Germantown on Wednesday.
ALL PHOTOS CHARLES MOSTOLLER

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Philly's Roller Derby team, the Liberty Belles, is in the playoffs Friday and will be hosting the league finals in November.

CASSIE HEPLER
@MetroPhilly
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Most sports for women don't encourage physical contact — to "protect" them.

Turns out, that's the opposite of what some ladies want.

"If you asked us what we enjoy most, I think there would be a resounding majority that would tell you the best part is getting to hit each other," said Beth Mast, 36, aka "Teflon Donna," a longtime skater for Philly's roller derby team, the Liberty Belles, and the head of training for the league. "It's so physically challenging, and we just love it!"

Soon, all of Philly will get the chance to take a closer look at how these ladies compete.

Philly Roller Derby will be hosting the 2017 International Women's Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA) Championships on Nov. 3-5 at Temple's Liacouras Center. The Liberty Belles are also in the playoffs, taking place all summer, to make it to the tournament.

They dropped in the rankings this year, falling out of the top 20 for the first time in history, so this tournament is especially important. The Belles will be taking the track against a team from Arizona on Friday as the Division 1 playoffs get underway in Dallas.

Zuri Pryor-Graves, 29, aka "ZipBlok," plays the role of blocker and is owner and designer of a roller derby gender-free handmade clothing line TheF0LD and a sex therapist. She said while teammates are mostly women, some do not identify that way.

"We do not recruit 'girls' and we do not write 'girl' on any of our recruitment information or any official documents," she said. "This sport is very inclusive and not only has an equally competitive division of men's roller derby, but openly recruits and holds space for gender nonconforming

The Liberty Belles will compete in the Division 1 playoffs in Dallas.

The Liberty Belles practice three to four nights per week.

If you go

Phily Roller Derby Championship

November 3-5

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Philadelphia

people and trans folks. We do not even use the gendered pronouns 'she' or 'her' when announcing. Announcers call everyone gender-neutral pronouns. It is the way of the roller derby world."

Pryor-Graves has also endured her share of injuries on the track.

"I tore my ACL, PCL, LCL and meniscus," she said. "The injury was not sustained from a legal or typical hit in derby, but it did happen on the track. Although we play a full-contact sport, usually when people play within the rules, it is less likely that we will get hurt."

Philly Roller Derby is a skater-run and operated league, but participants bring a lot of dedication to the sport. It requires 14 hours of practice a week along with four required hours of committee volunteer hours to participate.

"A normal week for me is eight hours of work, come home, cook food, decompress for a little and then get in the practice carpool and go to practice for two and a half hours," said Jillian Barrett, 27, aka JailBars, of Kensington, one of the co-heads of Champs planning and a skater for the Liberty Belles. "We practice three to four nights a week, which ranges from two to three hours, and focus on building our skills and developing our strategies. Conditioning is usually built in and we come a half-hour early on Thursdays to do off-skates strength building. I go to the gym one to two days a week for strength training."

Sound like fun? Philly Roller Derby is recruiting now with the next Freshmeat training session beginning in November in Germantown — no experience necessary. And everyone can attend the championships in November. Follow @phillyrollerderby on Instagram and Facebook for more information.

"... the best part is getting to hit each other. It's so physically challenging, and we just love it!"

Beth Mast

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Noncitizens registered to vote for years in PA

Philly voter fraud? The city's elections commissioner is probing a loophole that led to hundreds of improperly registered voters.

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City Commissioner Schmidt says noncitizens have registered to vote. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

City Commissioner Al Schmidt announced on Wednesday that his office discovered that hundreds of noncitizens have been able to register to vote in Philly and likely statewide in the last decade.

"When you're a noncitizen and you're eligible for a driver's license, you go to PennDOT," explained Schmidt, a Republican. "You're presented with a touch screen that asks you if you'd like to register to vote."

Schmidt stressed that these individuals are not believed to have had any fraudulent intent.

He said the loophole is "both harmful to election integrity and to members of the immigrant community seeking citizenship."

So far, at least 220 non-U.S. citizens have been identified who were registered to vote in Philadelphia between 2006 and 2017. Half of those voted, and 76 percent had registered to vote through PennDOT, the rest through other means.

"The total number of votes cast by non-U.S. citizens we identified is 227, with the largest number of votes [47] cast in the 2008 general election," his office said in a statement.

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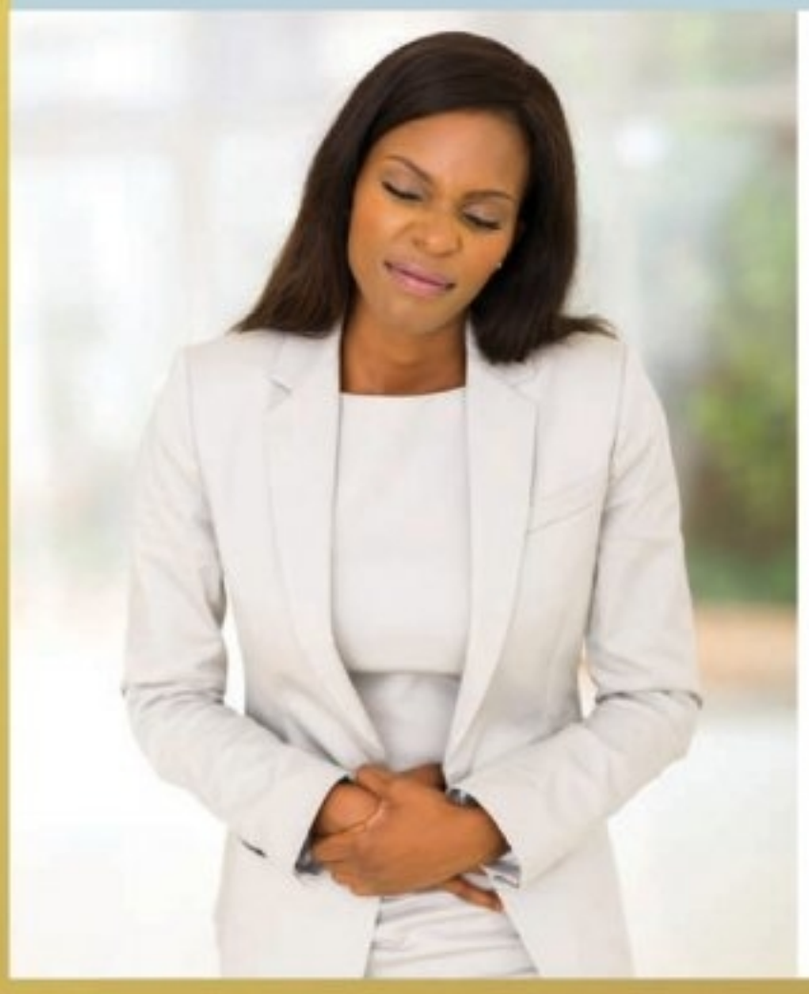

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For more information please contact Eileen at 484-380-4861 or eileen.davies@ctcphiladelphia.com

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White people are responding to racist trolls online so you don't have to

White Nonsense Roundup is fighting racist internet trolls with facts and reason. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

If you're a person of color tired of constantly explaining the meaning of "black lives matter" to your white followers on social media, there's a group of white activists who have launched an online crusade called White Nonsense Roundupthat just might be able to help.

Founded last year by Layla Tromble and Terri Kompton in Washington state, the organization of more than 60 volunteers works to respond to racist trolls online.

"If you are a Person of Color (POC), you have enough on your plate! It's not your job to educate white people about privilege, racism, and what's really going on in the world. If a white person is filling your social media with white nonsense — anything from overt racism to well-intentioned problematic statements — tag us and a white person will come roundup our own," the group's Facebook page reads.

Tromble doesn't claim any particular expertise beyond being a "queer person who was an activist in college" and being "a person of conviction that sees racism in our country is literally killing people and the least I can do is tell other white people that's a bad thing," but in a recent interview with HuffPost about White Nonsense Roundup, she said she sees the service as her responsibility.

"It's the responsibility of us white folks to do the emotional labor that's required to educate other white folks — and it shouldn't be required of people of color again and again," Tromble said to HuffPost. "One of the goals of the service is to do some of that labor for people. Let them go have a drink and not worry about nonsense going on on their Facebook."

In a little more than a year since its launch, the group has garnered nearly 100,000 likes on Facebook. ERIN TIERNAN

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Witches are casting spells on Trump to stop him from harming people

But all Tucker Carlson wanted to know was whether they actually use eye of newt.

MICHAEL MARTIN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Fox News host Tucker Carlson has questions for witches. GETTY IMAGES

Fox News host Tucker Carlson interviewed a self-described witch on his show to ask about binding spells she and other witches had placed on President Donald Trump, and the whole thing went off the rails.

"President Trump doesn't do what people expect him to do. Is he being unpredictable?" Carlson declared at the beginning of the segment, "Or could there be another cause — perhaps a magical one?"

Carlson then asked his guest Amanda Yates Garcia — a witch, tarot-card reader, energy healer, "shamanic practitioner" and "magical life coach" who has dubbed herself the "Oracle of Los Angeles" — about the spell she and other witches had cast on Trump to prevent him from harming others.

"I desire that Trump stop harming people that I care about and instituting policies that also harm me," Garcia said.

Carlson followed up by asking if eye of newt was an actual ingredient.

"I think the real problem is not whether or not eye of newt is an actual ingredient," Garcia replied "The real problem is we're about to have some kind of big nuclear extravaganza with North Korea. The real problem is that we're punishing immigrant children. The real problem is that we're causing students to go into debt."

Ever the conservative, Carlson asked if there were any federal regulations on casting spells.

Garcia replied that a spell is a symbolic action with meaning, and those are rife in government. "Why would people care whether people saluted the flag or sang the national anthem?" she said. "That's also symbolic action, and symbolic action has power."

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Rachel & Hayden are done

Rachel Bilson and Hayden Christensen — two people you may not know exist — have broken up, and so far, there is nothing salacious about it.

The couple had been together for nearly 10 years, but reportedly have been on the outs for a couple of months. "She's full-time back in L.A. He's in Toronto," an insider confirmed to Us-Weekly. "They are completely, officially done." Aw, man.

Ugh. They couldn't even make it salacious!

The "Hart of Dixie" alum met the guy that ruined Darth Vader on the set of the 2008 film "Jumper," where they played love interests. The share a daughter, Briar Rose, who was born in October 2014.

Here's hoping she makes like ex-boyfriend Adam Brody (who is married to "Gossip Girl" star Leighton Meester) and picks someone from "Gossip Girl" to shack up with next. May I suggest the dude who played Chuck Bass?

Halle's new beau

Halle Berry has found her newest victim-slash-boo thang.

The 51-year-old stepped out with music producer Alexander Grant — professionally known as Alex Da Kid — for a romantic date night in London on Tuesday.

Da Kid — as I guess I should call him — 35, is a Brit himself, and has worked with the likes of Dr. Dre and Rihanna.

A source tells People the two seem "smitten," but it's a little early to be taking bets, if you know what I mean. "They met over the summer," the source said. "It's rather new. … She's having a lot of fun." OK!

Their outting comes shortly after they made things what the kids call Instagram official.

Let's hope things go a bit better this time, shall we?

Aaron Paul is proud

Yeah, let's make this about you, my dude.
ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

Aaron Paul and his wife are expecting a baby, y'all. They announced the news via Instagram because, I don't know, that's just what celebrities do nowadays. I don't ask questions, I just roll my eyes.

"Hey everyone. Look what I did," the 38-year-old wrote underneath a picture of wife Lauren Parsekian gestating in real time. Or we could look at what your wifey is going to do for the next nine months, but I don't know. I'm just a woman with a reproductive organs.

"Words can't express how excited I am that this little one has entered our lives. Just thought it was time I would share this beautiful news with all of you." OK!

Paul and Parsekian have been married for four years. Earlier this summer, he told People that they weren't even thinking about a family. "There's no rush into anything. So if it happens, it happens."

Well, I guess it happened.

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Lady Gaga is scared of dying alone, too

Counting the most genuine moments from "Gaga: Five Foot Two."

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The documentary strips away the excess and lets Gaga get genuine — sometimes. ALL PHOTOS NETFLIX

"Gaga: Five Foot Two" does pretty much exactly what you think it's going to do: It works hard to strip away all of Lady Gaga's extra — the meat dresses, the wigs, the works — leaving you in awe of her massive talent. And it does something else too: it manages to make a wealthy A-lister slash pop star eerily relatable.

The documentary follows a year in the life of the 31-year-old, from creating her album "Joanne," to her performance at the Super Bowl LI halftime show. Directed by Chris Moukarbel, it boasts of a cinéma vérité style, so it's no surprise that the role of the camera (and the filmmaker behind it) is sometimes distracting. These sorts of documentaries make you wonder: are these stars always on? Do they ever get a break? Is Gaga, an innate performer, doing just that? The Netflix film, premiering September 22, doesn't offer a definitive answer, but the "Million Reasons" singer manages to come off as candid and earnest in bits and pieces. Which is really, the best that we could hope for.

Here are the most genuine moments from "Gaga: Five Foot Two."

When she admits she's scared to be alone

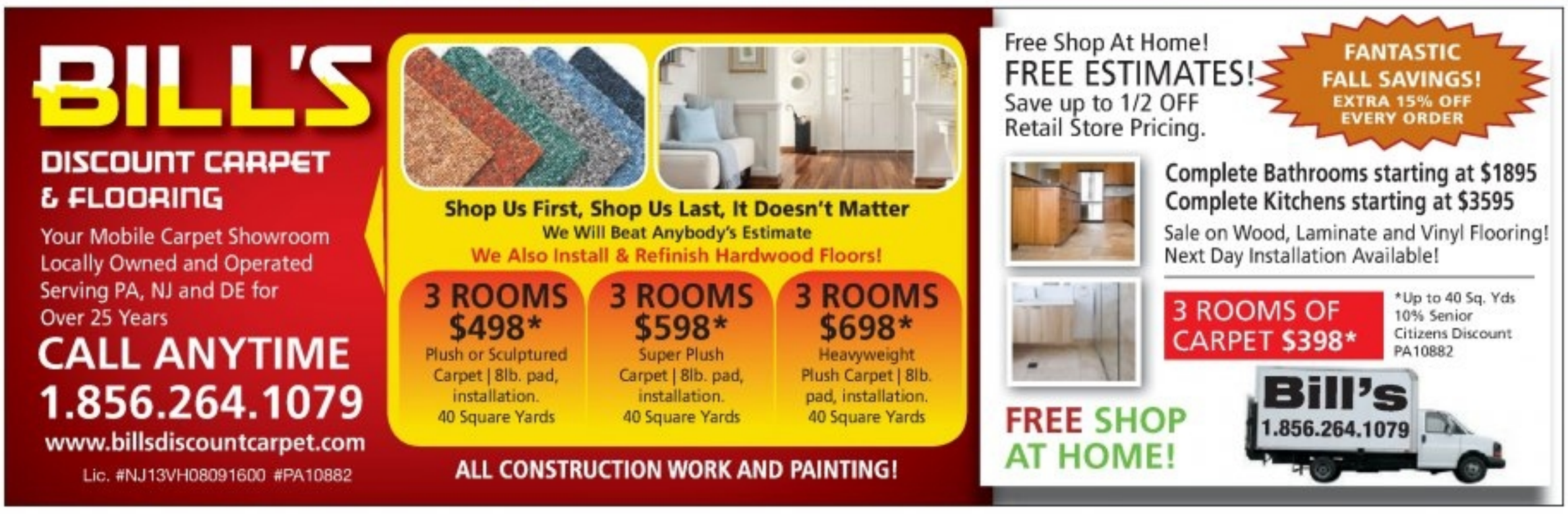
This film has a ton of emotions. In one of her most emotional breakdowns, Gaga — one of the world's most successful, most talented artists — ties every moment of her professional success with losing a man she loved. It's a bummer, but so so relatable. "I go from everyone touching me all day," she cries, "and talking at me all day, to total silence." Been there, girl.

The frank portrayal of her fibromyalgia

Gaga opens up about depression, anxiety and paranoia in the doc. But she also deals with chronic pain from fibromyalgia throughout. Watching her deal with the pain — and the conflict between wanting to take care of her body and wanting to give everything her all — is raw and hard to watch.

When she dents Mark Ronson's car

Mark Ronson should get second billing in "Gaga." He's chill, charming and supportive of Gaga throughout. So naturally,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The documentary follows Gaga as she finishes her 2016 album "Joanne" and prepares for her Super Bowl half-time show.

when she inadvertently dents his car he's totally chill about it. Probably because they're all rich, but you know.

When she hangs with her grandmother
Gaga wants her grandma to be into an early cut of the title track "Joanne" — dedicated to Gaga's aunt who died from lupus complications at age 19 — so badly, it's slightly uncomfortable. Seeing Gaga here, so desperate for her grandmother's approval, is one of the realest moments of the film.

When she silently remembers Amy Winehouse
In one scene, Gaga remembers talented artists who struggled with fame. But when she gets to Winehouse's name, she can't say it. She just says, "You know." Gaga — who tweeted that she couldn't speak for 48 hours after learning about Winehouse's death — is a little tipsy, but her emotions are super tangible in the moment.

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Cayetana released their sophomore album, "New Kind of Normal," in May. PROVIDED

Abi Reimold crafts hauntingly beautiful music. PROVIDED

Strand of Oaks is originally from Indiana, but lives here now. MACKAY HERLOT

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Philly Music Fest wants you to support your scene

The new festival kicks off this Friday.

JENNIFER LOGUE
@jenniferlogue
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There's a lot of great music coming out of Philadelphia these days, and Greg Seltzer, a local attorney, wants to do his part in supporting it, through launching the first-ever Philly Music Fest.

"I'm an attorney at Ballard Spahr doing merger and acquisitions, but everyone who knows me knows that music is my first passion after family," he says.

Seltzer is a self-described lifelong fan of Philly music, making it a point to see bands perform whenever he can.

"It occurred to me recently that over the last three to five years, the Philly music scene has generated some really strong national talent," Seltzer says. "We've always had a great scene but it's really been elevated over the past few years."

Steve Gunn PROVIDED

Ivy Sole PROVIDED

To give back to the music community, Seltzer decided to organize Philly Music Fest — a non-profit venture that would donate all proceeds to the musicians as well as music education initiatives in Philadelphia.

"We need to get money to the musicians trying to make a living playing music and we need to get money to the kids who are growing up in Philadelphia," Seltzer says. "We need to reestablish music as part of the fabric of our city."

And given this is a passion project, Seltzer isn't taking a dime.

"When you take away the profit margin of an event producer, you can do a lot of things to put on a great festival," he says.

Aside from the music, the festival will also feature Philly beer, Philly food and local arts & crafts vendors.

"Federal Donuts, La Colombe, Insomnia cookies — these are all local brands that have stepped up to support this," Seltzer says.

And how does this busy attorney find the time to organize such a big event despite his already busy schedule?

"I'm relentless, generally. When you combine a laser-focused personality with a passion project, it's almost not like work. It's probably one of the most fun things that I've done," he says.

If you go

Philly Music Fest
Sept. 22 and Sept. 23
7 p.m. to 11 p.m.
3025 Walnut St.
$30 to $125
worldcafelive.com

Friday

- Cayetana
- Work Drugs
- Eric Slick (of Dr. Dog)
- Skull Eclipses (ft. Lushlife and Botany)
- Abi Reimold
- Ceramic Animal
- Kississippi
- Chris Kasper
- Sports
- Slomo Sapiens
- West Philadelphia Orchestra

Saturday

- Strand of Oaks
- Steve Gunn
- Deadfellow
- Slaughter Beach, Dog
- Pine Barons
- Cheerleader
- Shannen Moser
- Ivy Sole
- Harmony Woods
- Sea Offs
- New Sound Brass Band
- Local Smokes
- Sixteen Jackies

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You have two more chances to see 'Iphigenia at Aulis' on the USS Olympia

"Iphigenia at Aulis" is a part of the 2017 Philadelphia Fringe Festival.
ALL PHOTOS DANIEL KONTZ DESIGN

Yes, this play is being performed on an actual ship.

JENNIFER LOGUE
@jenniferlogue
jennifer.logue@metro.us

You've probably been on a boat before, but have you ever experienced a theatrical production on a ship? With Philadelphia Artists' Collective (PAC), you can finally cross that item (that you never knew you had) off your bucket list. Their latest production "Iphigenia at Aulis" takes place on the USS Olympia in a partnership with the Independence Seaport Museum as a part of the 2017 Philadelphia Fringe Festival.

This play dates back to 407 B.C.

"We love partnering with different spaces around the city and they seemed like a perfect fit for this play," says show director and co-founding director of PAC Dan Hodge. "They have been incredible partners over the course of this process and have expressed a genuine interest in supporting us and connecting us with their base."

If you're looking for drama, this play has it all and don't think because it was written by Euripides in 407 B.C. that you won't be into it. "Iphigenia at Aulis" involves a nation about to go to war, a family that's falling apart and an army that is unable to set sail unless its general sacrifices his daughter. Yikes!

"Iphigenia roots in deep questions of family and national identity," adds Hodge.

And you won't just be sitting on the ship and watching the play happen passively. "Iphigenia at Aulis" is an immersive experience.

"You have to walk through portions of the Officer's chambers and into the far more Spartan regions of the vessel to engage with this work," says Hodge. "It is a world of steel and sparseness that informs the emotional brutality of this play beautifully."

If you go

"Iphigenia at Aulis"
Sept. 21 and Sept. 22
8 p.m., $20- $25
Independence Seaport Museum
211 S. Columbus Blvd.
fringearts.com

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Brauhaus Schmitz Oktoberfest
at the 23rd Street Armory
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22 South 23rd Street
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Saturday October 7, 2017 1pm-5pm & 7pm-11pm
Sunday October 8, 2017 1pm-8pm
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THEATER

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

Walnut Street Theatre — in an unbelievable 209th season — brings Stephen Sondheim's "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," a musical take on a Roman farce, to life with an ensemble cast led by Sara Brophy. In the story, the oh-so-cunning Pseudolus, a slave, attempts to woo a young aristocrat for his master in exchange for his freedom.
Sept. 21 through Oct. 22, various times
Walnut Street Theatre
825 Walnut St.
walnutstreettheatre.org, $20

Carousel

The Media Theatre company launches their 2017-18 season with the tragic love story of Billy Bigelow, a traveling carnival performer who falls head-over-heels for Julie Jordan, only for him to die in an accident shortly after. The musical follows Billy's supernatural journey back to the living world to see how her life turned out.
Sept. 22, 8 p.m.
The Media Theatre
104 East State St., Media
mediatheatre.org, $25

FOOD & DRINK

Bar 57 Pop-Up Bar

Through December, during one Thursday per month, Bar 57 will appear on the 57th floor of One Liberty, featuring a lineup of Federal Distilling's Stateside Urbancraft vodka cocktails. DJs, starting with DJ Royale, are also scheduled to appear through the season.
Sept. 21, 6 p.m.
One Liberty Observation Deck
1650 Market St.
phillyfromthetop.com
Pay as you go

International House Oktoberfest

'Tis the season for Oktoberfest and International House promises a traditional take on the annual Bavarian festival, serving up plenty of brews, wurstl, polka music and more. Considering International House specializes in multiculturalism, this one's poised to be among the more authentic-feeling of the season's Oktoberfests.
Sept. 22, 6 p.m.
International House (Outdoor Courtyard)
3701 Chestnut St.,
ihousephilly.org, $15

UpToberfest

Timed in celebration of Prince Ludwig I and Princess Therese, whose wedding marked the first Oktoberfest, this all-day celebration features beer, music, more beer and dishes ranging from potato pancakes to currywurst. Limited German import drafts will be pouring, so it's a great chance to try something new.
Sept. 23, 12 p.m.
Uptown Beer Garden
1735 John F. Kennedy Blvd.
facebook.com/uptownbeergarden/,
Pay as you go

THEATER

Mujeres

Annielille Gavino and Evalina Carbonell draw inspiration from motherhood in this dance performance that's a love letter to daughters everywhere. Also on view: a film by Jasmine Lynea Callis, poems by Lenora Howard and music by Maya Simonee.
Sept.22 through Sept. 24, various times
Chi Movement for the Arts
1316 S. Ninth St.
fringearts.com, $20

EDGAR AMADO

LGBT

PHIL MANTAS

AIDS Walk Informational Meeting

Learn more about what your fundraising efforts go toward by attending this kick-off meeting from AIDS Fund Executive Director Robb Reichard, who discusses the past, present and future of HIV/AIDS. A photographic timeline explaining 35 years of the disease's history will remain present in Rittenhouse Square after the presentation ends.
Sept. 22, 11 a.m.
Corner of 18th and Walnut streets
aidswalkphilly.org, Free

Ardmore Oktoberfest

Ardmore is expected to usher in thousands of attendees for this six-hour Oktoberfest, headed by McCloskey's Tavern — which will tap nine beer and cider options, with a special selection from Tired Hands Brewing Company. Aside from the usual Bavarian fare, expect some seasonal activities like pumpkin painting and cookie decorating.
Sept. 23, 2 p.m.
McCloskey's Tavern
17 Cricket Ave., Ardmore
ardmoreoktoberfest.com
Pay as you go

Piazza Pop-Up Beer Garden

Brew Crew Events and Home Brewed Events partner for this two-day pop-up beer garden. The garden will appear in conjunction with the Maker's Market on Sept. 23, during which guests can purchase art, crafts and local produce — while doing a Downward Dog with Dhyana Yoga.
Sept. 23 through Sept. 24, 10 a.m.
The Piazza at Schmidt's Commons
1001 N. Second St.
theschmidtscommons.com
Pay as you go

MUSIC

Amadeus Live

The Philadelphia Orchestra, for a super-limited three-night run, performs the soundtrack of the eight Academy Award-winning film "Amadeus." The movie will be screened in the background.
Sept. 21 through Sept. 23, 7 p.m.
Verizon Hall,
300 S. Broad St.
kimmelcenterorg, $40

LGBT

Art of the Heel

Cookie Diorio, a drag queen known for her singing and sky-high heels, performs with Matt Brower and special guest Garrett Obrycki for this Fringe Festival benefit in support of environmental advocate PennFuture. Diorio is an outlandish and talented operatic singer who often performs gospel.
Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m.
William Way Community Center
1315 Spruce St.
fringearts.com, $20

Mimi Imfurst

RuPaul's Drag Race finalist Mimi Imfurst leads a raucous night of drag — remarkably still all-ages, with drink specials promised and a full menu served until midnight. A gaggle of local queens will accompany her on stage.
Sept. 23, 10 p.m.
Hard Rock Café,
1131 Market St.
hrcphillymusic.com, $12

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Your guide to Oktoberfest

Everything you need to know about the world's largest beer and folk festival.

Fodor's Travel

Nearly six million people make a pilgrimage to Munich for Oktoberfest every year. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Munich's Oktoberfest is one of the most hotly anticipated events on Europe's fall calendar with more than six million visitors every year. In 14 big and 20 small tents, they consume almost 1.5 million gallons of beer and munch their way through over half a million chickens, 280,000 pork sausages and 110 oxen. Oktoberfest is the epitome of German hospitality, but navigating the local customs while gulping beer can be a challenge. Here are our best tips for surviving the world's largest folk festival.

Choose the Right Outfit

If you want to blend in with the locals, get over your shyness and buy or rent a traditional outfit. Women wear dirndls, a circular cut dress complete with apron and puffy short sleeves. Avoid buying dirndls hitting above the knee, which is frowned upon and will expose you as a tourist right away.

Men wear lederhosen, often in combination with suspenders, calf warmers and Haferl shoes. With copious amounts of alcohol being thrown about, broken glass and thousands of people in a confined space, this is not the occasion for fancy shoes, and solid footwear is the sensible choice. Dress appropriately for both inside and outside conditions as the tents get very hot the longer the day goes on, but you'll hit the cooler autumn air once you leave in the evenings.

Get There Early

If you think Germans are as punctual as the stereotype suggests — you're right! Many tables in the most popular tents like Käfer's Wiesnschänke get booked well in advance. There is no reason to panic if you haven't done so yet. In 2013, the rules were changed to give more space for people without reservations. Some tents can sit up to 10,000 people, but you need to get there early to snatch a table. Tents open at 10 a.m. during the week and at 9 a.m. on the weekends.

Sharing Is Caring

Oktoberfest is all about Bavarian Gemütlichkeit. The long wooden tables are communal, so don't hog a whole one for yourself and make new friends over gulping steins of beer. The locals even have a term for this: Wiesenbekanntschaft, which means "Oktoberfest acquaintance." These newfound friends will also come in handy when you need a bathroom break as they can save your seat.

Drink Like a German

When ordering a beer, ask for a mass, not a stein (actually called a Bierkrug in German). A mass is 1 liter of beer and the standard measure at Oktoberfest.

Drinking an entire day without getting drunk (or going bankrupt) is quite a challenge, so make each mass last. Hold the beer glass by its handle (with one hand if you can), clank at the bottom, and toast a cheerful "Prost!" Note that the local wheat beer is strong stuff (up to 8 percent ABV).

Arrive dressed to impress!

Should your beverage get warm, it's perfectly OK to tip it out, but never ever consolidate beer. If you need a break from beer, ask for a Radler (beer with lemonade) or alcohol-free soda. At the end of the day, there will be plenty of Bierleichen, literally translated to "beer corpses," or the slightly nicer "sleeping drunks" found around the fairgrounds or on Kotzhügel (puke hill).

Respect the Servers

Once you've finally made it into the tent and to your seat, you can relax a bit as there is a dedicated server who looks after several tables. Order from her unless you're standing, in which case, the windows by the kitchen are an alternative. Running around for hours, carrying up to eight full beer glasses and squeezing through tight crowds is a tough job. Keep your hands to yourself, even if you're just trying to get her attention, and tip generously.

Cash Is King

Entrance to the fairgrounds and tents is free, but you'll need money for everything else from rollercoaster rides to food stalls. For Oktoberfest, a few places will accept credit cards (often with a minimum spend), but bring plenty of cash as a mass of beer will set you back around 10.50 euros ($12.50). There are some ATMs on the grounds, but the lines will be long. It's very common to pay a small pfand (deposit) for glasses, plates and silverware, thanks to the mass theft of "souvenirs" in the past. Upon returning the dishes, you'll get your deposit back.

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Royal Caribbean: 7-Day Bahamas $549* pp — Ocean View $699* Taxes & fees $149.22pp Balcony $799*
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5 Reasons to believe in the Phillies again

Don't look now, but the Phillies have become a joy to watch again.

EVAN MACY
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The Phillies seem to have most of the position players they'll need for a bright future on the field, finally. GETTY IMAGES

If the playoffs positions for major league baseball were solely based on the last 30 games, the Phillies would be tied for the second Wild Card spot.

Obviously that is an absurd notion, and there is a reason why teams play 162 games each season. And the Phillies still have the second-worst record in all of baseball. But watching them on the field over the last few months one would never know. After a bevy of hiccups and letdowns, the rebuilding Phillies are finally offering fans hope and something to cheer for.

Here are five things you might not know about the Phillies this season but should be award of:.

1 Rhys (the revelation) Hoskins

The Phillies slugging outfielder and first baseman has made headlines everywhere and you probably know the numbers. As of Wednesday the rookie was within three homers of leading the entire Phillies roster despite having played only 39 games. He has 18 dingers and 43 RBI as well as a solid .299 batting average — hitting clean up each night in Citizens Bank Park. His on base percentage and slugging percentage are more than .200 points better than any other Phillie.

2 Other offensive prospects

Formerly the club's top minor league prospects, a trio of other rookie position players are looking firmly entrenched in the big league's future plans after various summer call ups. Catcher Jorge Alfaro has become the No. 1 player at that position and is hitting .295, while outfielder Nick Williams is batting .288 and has 10 homers through 72 games. The team's top prospect J.P. Crawford has shown signs of brilliance in the bigs as well, hitting .261 through two weeks of appearances.

3 Picking up pitching

The Phillies bullpen has been the second best in the majors since mid August and hurler Aaron Nola is looking to be a true ace. Nola earned his 12th win earlier in the week and has a respectable 3.66 ERA. He's 2-0 with a 2.33 ERA over his last three starts.

4 They beat Clayton Kershaw

Just when we thought we had seen the Phillies best win of the year — a wild 15-inning walk-off win against the Marlins last week — they step things up again. Thanks to a key two-out Hoskins walk to load the bases in a Monday night showdown with the powerhouse Dodgers, Aaron Altherr blasted a grand slam 418 feet to left center field to knock Clayton Kershaw out of the game en route to a 4-3 win.

5 They are measurably better

The Phillies are 16-14 over the last 30 games and are actually just three games below .500 in the season's second half. They have a 34-39 record at home despite their 60-91 overall record and are three wins away from avoiding the all-embarrassing 100-loss threshold.

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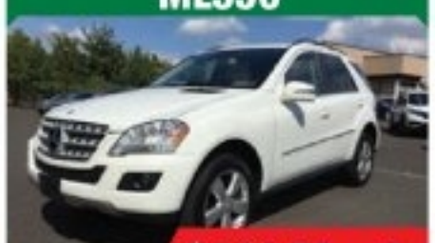
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It will be interesting to see how much Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons end up playing in 2017-18. GETTY IMAGES

Sixers say no restrictions on Simmons' minutes, Embiid extension possible

Remember Joel Embiid's minute watch last season?

Sixers fans — the hardcore ones at least — learned to memorize exactly when the star center was expected to step on and off the floor as part of his frustrating 25-minutes-per-game restriction last season.

Though his status for 2017-18 is not completely set in stone, as his health after a season-ending knee surgery back in February has led the Sixers brass to admit that they are "not able to say what they'll be able to get out of Joel Embiid next week."

GM Bryan Colangelo added that he isn't ready for five-on-five action yet.

However, Ben Simmons, another Sixer who missed significant time last year — actually all the time last year — will be a dynamo on the floor. And totally unencumbered.

"I don't foresee any restrictions with Ben," the GM said at the Sixers' media luncheon Wednesday.

Head coach Brett Brown also gave some insight into how Simmons will be used his rookie year, confirming that Simmons will 100 percent be the team's point guard.

"I'm committed to him, even in the half court," Brown said, saying he is locked into Simmons at the point. Last year's No. 1 overall pick will, however, defend against the opposing team's power forward. "I think right off the bat he has the chance to be an elite defensive player."

As for Embiid's future restrictions, the Sixers admit they may have some but they will be less than last year's minutes formula.

There was a little more news on the Embiid front as well, if you can consider bland statements about potential future decisions as news. Will he be offered and accept a contract extension?

"It is certainly something that is being considered and discussed," Colangelo said. "I'm cautiously optimistic."

The Sixers open training camp, officially, next week in Camden with practices running through Thursday. The season tips off in October. EVAN MACY

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The **Committee on Law and Government** of the Council of the City of Philadelphia will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, September 27, 2017,** at **10:00 AM,** in **Room 400, City Hall,** to hear testimony on the following items:

170680 An Ordinance amending Title 20 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Officers and Employees," to add a Chapter establishing a system for public financing of political campaigns; all under certain terms and conditions.

170696 Resolution proposing an amendment to The Philadelphia Home Rule Charter regarding appropriations and expenditures for, and implementation of, public financing of political campaigns pursuant to a system as may be established by Council by ordinance; and providing for the submission of the amendment to the electors of Philadelphia.

Immediately following the public hearing, a meeting of the Committee on Law and Government, open to the public, will be held to consider the action to be taken on the above listed items.

Copies of the foregoing items are available in the Office of the Chief Clerk of the Council, Room 402, City Hall.

Michael Decker
Chief Clerk

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67 Conclude
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50 Pedro's mom
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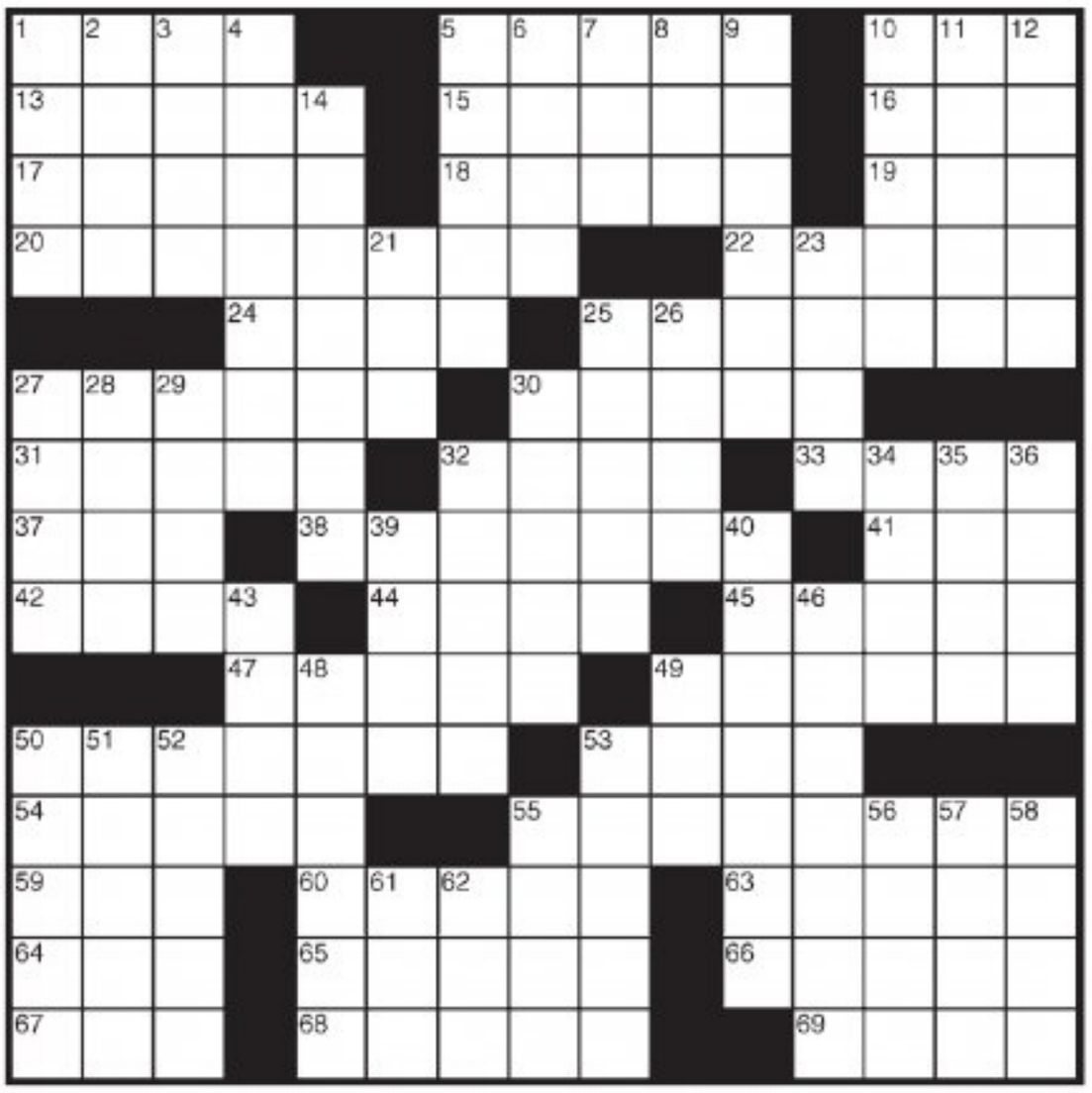

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Aries An opportunity may not be as good as it sounds. Research the ups and downs of whatever situation you face before you agree to jump in.

Taurus Don't let the actions of others sway your opinion. If someone is enthusiastic about a deal, make sure to see if there is any substance behind what's being offered.

Gemini An opportunity to make a work-related change is encouraged. Discuss your options with someone who is already working in a vocation that interests you.

Cancer A steady, levelheaded approach to life and dealing with others will help you bypass discord. Refuse to let your emotions spin out of control and lead to impulsive actions.

Leo Take care of your responsibilities before moving on to enjoyable pastimes if you want to avoid complaints or criticism. A change may tempt you, ensure you can afford it.

Virgo Walk away from a financial deal that leaves you feeling uncertain. Bank on what you know to be legitimate, and don't budge if someone puts pressure on you.

Libra A disagreement should be handled carefully. A fair solution may not be enough. Offer an incentive that you know will be too difficult to refuse.

Scorpio Someone will take advantage of your vulnerability if you share your emotional concerns. Keep your personal thoughts and affairs secret. Concentrate on getting ahead.

Sagittarius Confusion will set in while you are traveling or trying to obtain information. Ask questions that will help you better understand the changes going on around you.

Capricorn Emotional matters will escalate if someone is pressuring you or if you try to force your will on others. You are best off handling matters and doing things on your own.

Aquarius A change will do you good. An unexpected opportunity will boost your enthusiasm and encourage you to get involved in a joint venture.

Pisces Physical as well as professional changes will boost your morale, giving you an extra appeal. Partnerships are encouraged. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

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